

XIX.—NUMBER OF EGGS LAID BY THE INDIAN SHIKRA
 [*ASTUR BADIUS DUSSUMIERI* (TEMM. AND LANG.)].

In March 1934 a pair of these birds were frequently seen in my compound and by watching their movements the nest was found on a banyan tree.

When the bird was observed to be sitting three eggs, fresh, were taken on 11-3-34. The birds remained in the vicinity and on 23-3-34 another fresh egg was taken from the same nest. It was thought that this would have ended the female's egg-laying for the season, but on seeing her sitting again on 4-4-34 a further three fresh eggs were obtained. It will thus be seen that this Shikra laid seven eggs within a month against a normal clutch of from three to four eggs.

The average measurement of the eggs was $1.45'' \times 1.17''$, which shows them to be slightly smaller than the measurements given by Baker and Inglis in *The Birds of Southern India*.

The birds remained in the vicinity until the end of May 1934 but did not lay again.

The same pair it is presumed built again in the compound in 1935 and 1936; the nest in 1935 being on a different tree. In 1936 the same tree as was used in 1934 was selected, the nest being constructed on a different part of the tree.

Although it is September when this note is being written the birds are still seen flying around and cause the smaller birds many anxious moments.

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XX.—THE STATUS OF THE KOEL [*EUDYNAMIS*
SCOLOPACEUS (L.)] IN SIND.

(With a map.)

The status of the Koel in Sind is peculiar. How, and from whence it originally came and established itself in Karachi, situated as it is between desert and sea, has long been a mystery.

It is common and resident in Cutch but between Cutch and Karachi lie some most inhospitable and arid desert tracts, devoid, except where the hand of Man is evident, of all vegetation necessary for the existence of the species, which is arboreal, mainly fruit-eating and as habitat must have large leafed, shady, trees, groves and fruit gardens. The Crow, another factor necessary to its survival is of course as ubiquitous in Sind as elsewhere in India.

The occurrence of a species in any tract of country is accounted for either by natural extension of range or by introduction.